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Dominican Reprise

Bosch Again Called a Communist As Elections Approach

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SANTO DOMINGO—The old campaign of vilification against Juan Bosch, calling him a Communist in democrat's clothing, has started once again, just two months before the scheduled Dominican elections.

There is the echo of a broken record about it, for this is the same "reason" given by the army when it overthrew him in 1963.

Yet there has still never been offered the slightest evidence that former Dominican President Bosch is anything but what he says he is—a nationalist and a member of the democratic left.

This time the "Anti-Communist" campaign began with the March 5 publication of an advertisement in a Venezuelan newspaper, La Universal.

This ad, whose contents mysteriously never made any news columns, purported to give the contents of supersecret conversations at the January Tricontinental Conference in Havana, a meeting of Latin, Asian and African Communists.

According to the ad, the Communists had agreed to support Bosch, to insist on the vice presidency for rebel leader Col Francisco Caamano Deno and to get for themselves certain key cabinet posts.

Three weeks after its publication, the ad was republished as news in the Dominican paper El Caribe by its rightist publisher, Herman Ornes, after he re-

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turned from a visit to the Inter-American Press Association meeting in Caracas.

"Now, once and for all, I am going to tell the Dominican people what is communism and what is democracy," Bosch, furious, told me in his house outside Santo Domingo a day after this story appeared.

He then went on radio for half hour daily to speak on the subject.

Bosch, who now tends to see everything that happens in terms of an American conspiracy, insists that the ad was placed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in order to discredit him.

Usually highly reliable sources say that CIA men, when they saw it, were upset, knowing they would be blamed for it.

The group that signed the ad, the Center of Information and Documentation, is known in Venezuela as a far-rightist shadow group of rabidly anti-Communist Venezuelan women, many connected with former dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez.

In his broadcasts, Bosch repeated over and over that he has never been a Com-



JUAN BOSCH

... again under attack

munist and has never had any connections with Communists.

No. U.S. official will call Bosch a Communist and many will now admit privately that the information of last spring, which stated that Communists had taken over control of the revolution in the early days, was mistaken.

The major thing that Washington holds against Bosch in this respect is that, while President in 1963, he refused to exile Communists, arguing that exile only made martyrs and that his country needed a period of peace and freedom.

American officials last spring also said that Bosch had made a pact with the Communists before the revolution. If this is so, no proof of it has ever been put forward. The pact that was made to start the revolution, the Pact of Rio Piedras, was between Bosch's party (PRD) and the Social Christian Party.